

03500.017916

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Kaitlin S. Joerger
SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 3653
Application No.: 10/781,810)	
	:	Confirmation No. 3940
Filed: February 20, 2004)	
	:	
For: SHEET TRANSPORT APPARATUS)	February 22, 2007
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	

Mail Stop RCE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed Japanese references, together with English-language Abstracts therefor, is also enclosed.

JP 2002-316733 has been cited for its disclosure of a curved path. However, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest the invention as recited in each of the independent claims.

JP 5-147764 discloses to nip an envelope fed out by a pair of rollers to expel air from inside the envelope. In JP 5-147764, the pair of rollers squeezes the swelling portion,

but this will cause wrinkles in the envelope or even possibly break the envelope. The reference does not disclose, as recited in claim 11, at least the feature of a rotary member arranged away from the transport guide by a predetermined distance to adequately press the swelling portion occurring in the envelope. Nor does it disclose or suggest the feature of ribs as a regulation member to press a swelling portion in an envelope, as called for by claim 17. JP 5-147764 merely discloses a pair of rollers.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence A. Stahl/

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Date submitted to the PTO: February 22, 2007			ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017916		APPLICATION NO. 10/781,810		
			APPLICANT SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.				
			FILING DATE February 20, 2004			GROUP 3653	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		5-147764	06/15/1993	Japan			Abstract
		2002-316733	10/31/2002	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.